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BCNM Views & Values Assessment

Community Debrief





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Welcome & Context-Setting





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Photo compliments of
Rob White



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Agenda

Welcome & Context-Setting

➡ Agenda Review

Presentation of Findings

Visit Stations: Maps & Findings

Final Reflections

Closing



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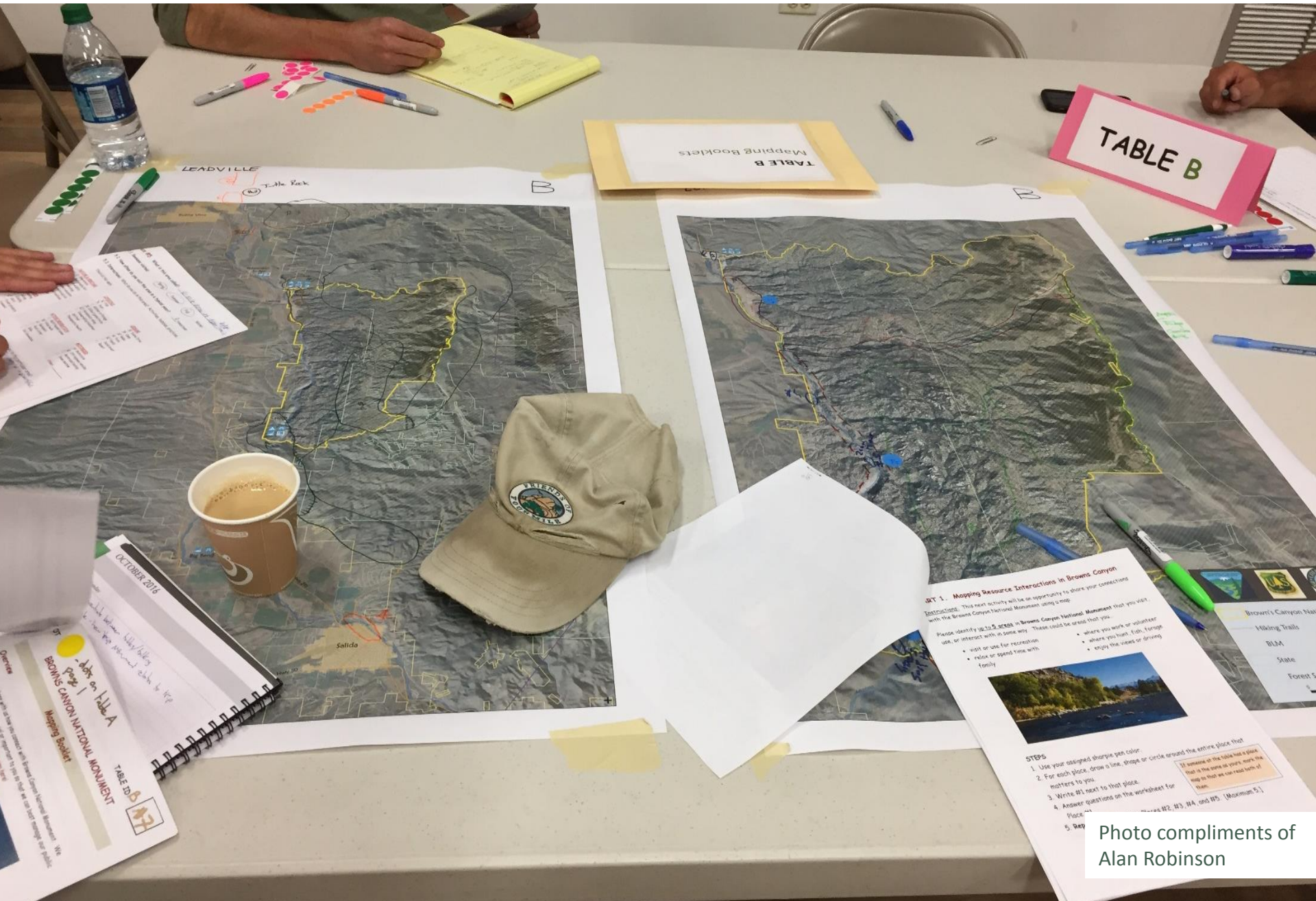


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Approach: Stakeholder Interviews + Public Listening Sessions





Stakeholder Interests

As part of the assessment, CBI identified stakeholders and other interest groups who engage with and care about Browns Canyon National Monument.

Educational Institutions

Local colleges, universities + high schools.

Railroad

“Friends of” Groups

Recreation: Climbing

Geology

Gem and minerals

Recreation: River-dependent

Rafting, fishing

Government

Local, state, federal

Recreation: Trail-dependent

Mountain biking, hiking, equestrian

Grazing

Tribes - Note: Tribes are in formal consultation process.
CBI did not conduct tribal outreach.

Hunting + Rifle Enthusiasts

Urban Communities that visit the monument,
Including Young People

Local Business

Outfitter, outdoor retail, gold mining, restaurant,
hotel

Veteran Groups

Mining Claimant

Water

Motorized

Youth

Private Land Owners Adjacent to Monument



Assessment Interview Questions

Future of BCNM

- How would you describe the BCNM area and its meaning to you? What role does Browns Canyon play in your life?
- What values do others place in Browns Canyon?
- When thinking about the future, how would you envision BCNM at its best?
- How does that future differ from today?
- What would you recommend happen to realize that future vision?
- What concerns, if any, do you have about the area?
- What hopes or concerns do you have about BCNM being designated as a national monument?
- What benefits or challenges would you anticipate that the monument might cause for you as an individual? For your community or organization?



Assessment Interview Questions

Process and Outreach

- Who should be involved in the work leading up to and during the planning process?
- Who might have concerns or experience upset if not contacted about planning to share their views, history, heritage, experience or other concerns about BCNM?
- What is the best way to gather input from those who care about BCNM?
- What is the best way to share information about the monument with you and others you know?
- If holding in-person workshops and trying to reach those who care about the area, where would you recommend they take place?
- What kinds of outreach / engagement /activities do you or others already have in place that might involve these stakeholders or that this planning effort might be able to draw upon?
- As this planning work continues, how would you like to be involved? What is the best way to stay in touch?



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Assessment Interview Questions

Conclusion

- Is there **anything else** that you haven't mentioned? What advice would you offer or what else would you recommend to move this effort forward?
- **Who else**, if anyone, would you recommend that we speak to as part of this assessment?



Key Findings from CBI Assessment Interview

Interviewees pointed to:

- The **unique experience** that the Browns Canyon National Monument landscape offers.
- A **range of quality recreation** opportunities available in the monument.
- The need for a **balance** between providing **access to the monument** while maintaining **opportunities for quiet and solitude** that characterize the Browns Canyon landscape.
- The **designation creates special considerations** for managing Browns Canyon as a monument.
- The **challenges** of regulation and enforcement.
- **Local economic impacts** of the monument designation;
- The need to secure funding for County road improvements.
- The importance of a **collaborative management approach**.
- **Engaging stakeholders** through a wide range of **communication channels**.



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Rugged and Remote Landscape

The area was noted for its rugged topography, unique geologic features, striking views, and the feeling of remoteness and solitude.

"The rugged terrain is accessible most of the year. I have kayaked Browns many times. The granite outcrops are beautiful amidst the forest and small streams feeding the river."



Photo: Logan Myers, Friends of Browns Canyon



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Diverse Recreation Opportunities

Browns Canyon provides a range of quality recreation opportunities in a **relatively compact** area **accessible** to the public. The area is used for whitewater boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, camping, rock climbing, off-highway vehicles, gem collection, and more.

"It is a well-managed, awe-inspiring location that is perfect for getting young people who do not have access to the great outdoors out to experience the wonders of nature."



Photo courtesy of Friends of Browns Canyon



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Balancing Access and Solitude

Participants described the need for a balance between public access to the Monument, while maintaining opportunities for quiet and solitude.

"It is one of the few places left in central Colorado where the rugged terrain and lack of trails, people and development permit solitude and primitive experiences year round."



Photo: Logan Myers, Friends of Browns Canyon



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Public Access and Resource Protection

Desire to share the wonders of Browns Canyon with visitors, but concern about impacts to the biophysical and social environment from over-use, spillover, or dispersal of visitors into new territories.

“People are going to come visit Browns Canyon. We need to manage and direct that traffic in ways that will mitigate negative impacts. That means certain areas will be high use. However, we need to make sure the majority of the monument see's minimal impacts.”



Photo: Luke Urbine, Friends of Browns Canyon



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Recreation Trails and Facilities

While many welcomed the development of outdoor recreation facilities and trails to encourage access, there was a desire to maintain a low-key footprint.

"I'm crossing my fingers that the existing access near Turret can remain open, but kept as primitive and un-promoted as possible. Let's keep it as a low-key backcountry option please!"



Photo Courtesy of Conservation Colorado



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National Monument Designation

The National Monument designation creates special considerations for managing Browns Canyon. Questions were raised about how access for a wide range of uses will be managed.

"Since the designation, many of the activities my family has enjoyed have come to a standstill. We used to collect obsidian and garnets from Ruby Mountain. We also prospect for gold along the Arkansas. From what I understand it is illegal to do any prospecting."



Photo: Scott Willoughby, Denver Post



Listening Sessions

We held six listening sessions in local communities and in the urban Front Range. We conducted an online mapping session. Overall, 311 people participated.

Sense of Place

- What is your connection to the area?
- Why is Browns Canyon special to you?

Resource Interactions

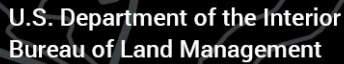
- What areas do you visit or use in Browns Canyon? What do you do there?

Special Places

- Why are these places important to you? What values do you attach to them?



Listening Session in Buena Vista



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Word Art created using Tagul based on 260 responses



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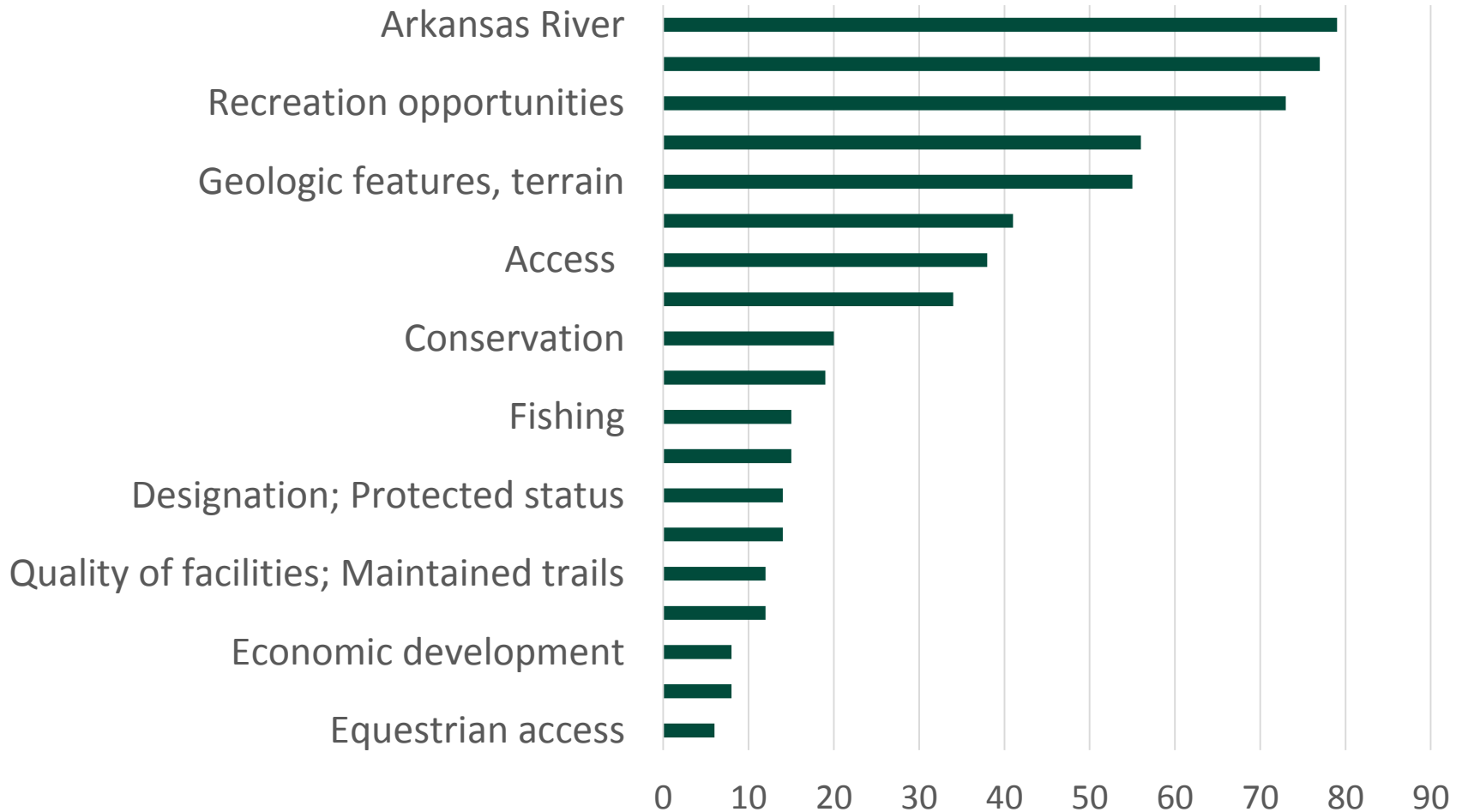


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What is special to you about Browns Canyon?





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“What is special to you about Browns Canyon?”

The River: *“The River. Very unique river valley with incredible mountain and canyon scenery, and amazing rock formations.”*

Solitude: *“The sparse and few visitors plus the lack of developed, mapped, and advertised trails and trailheads are the most valuable features of the land within the Browns Canyon National Monument.”*



Photo: Logan Myers, Friends of Browns Canyon



“What is special to you about Browns Canyon?”

Scenery: *“It is rugged mysterious and a giant maze or puzzle. It has the absolute best views of the valley. The drier climate makes it year round accessible. The scenery in the canyon is unbelievable. The wildlife and flora are striking.”*

Geology: *“I enjoy Browns rugged drainages, its wild segments of the Arkansas River, rock formations in the railroad gulch and reef areas.”*





Browns Canyon Human Ecology Mapping

- We asked participants to map:
 - **Resource Interactions:**
Areas they visit, use, or interact with
 - **Special Places:** Places that are especially significant or special
- We analyzed and mapped these features to highlight spatial trends in land use & values
- Total spatial features collected
 - 641 resource interaction areas
 - 312 special places points

Session location	Number of participants
Leadville	11 (4%)
Denver	19 (6%)
Colorado Springs	10 (3%)
Salida	49 (16%)
Cañon City	6 (2%)
Buena Vista	38 (12%)
Community Totals	133 (43%)
Online Session Totals	178 (57%)
Overall Total	311(100%)



Resource Interactions

Place #1 What is this area called? _____

1.1 Seasons visited: Spring Summer Fall Winter

1.2 How often do you visit this area in a typical year? _____times/year

1.3 Interactions: What do you do in this area? Activities, hobbies, practices...

Check all that apply.

NATURE & HERITAGE

- ☐ View nature
- ☐ Photography/Art
- ☐ Watch wildlife
- ☐ Bird watching
- ☐ Outdoor education
- ☐ Visit historical site
- ☐ Cultural traditions
- ☐ Science

LIFESTYLE

- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Hunt
- ☐ Gather or Forage
- ☐ Collect gems/rocks
- ☐ Horseback riding
- ☐ Stewardship/volunteer
- ☐ Spiritual
- ☐ Therapeutic/health

LEISURE

- ☐ Scenic Drive
- ☐ Camp
- ☐ Relax
- ☐ Picnic
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Social event
- ☐ Resort

LIVELIHOOD

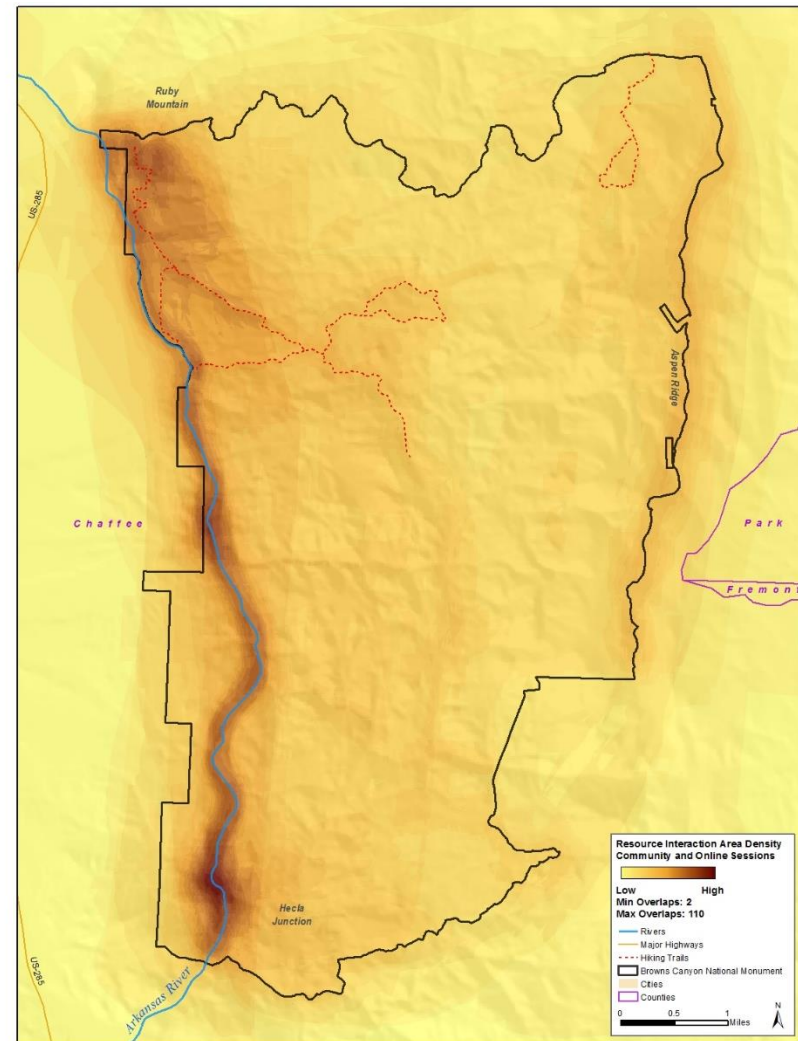
- ☐ Guiding
- ☐ Mining
- ☐ Grazing
- ☐ Work
- ☐ Forest products
- ☐ Firewood

ACTIVE RECREATION

- ☐ Raft/kayak/canoe
- ☐ Hike/walk
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Rock climb
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Ski/Snowshoe

MOTORIZED

- ☐ Motorcycle
- ☐ Off-highway vehicles
- ☐ Motorized boating
- ☐ Snow machine
- ☐ Other: _____





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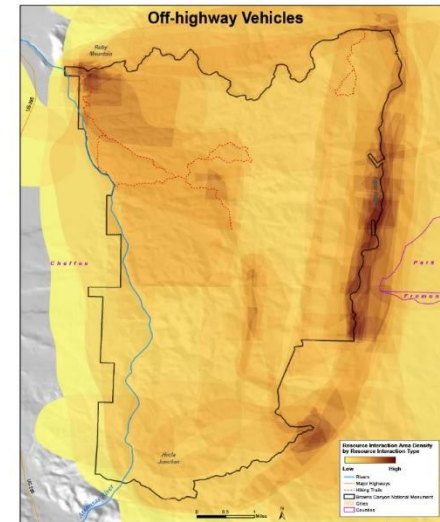
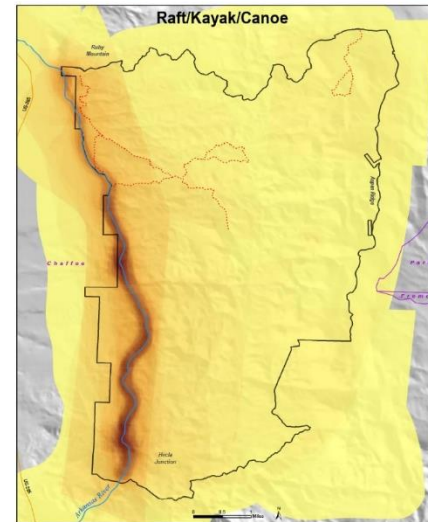
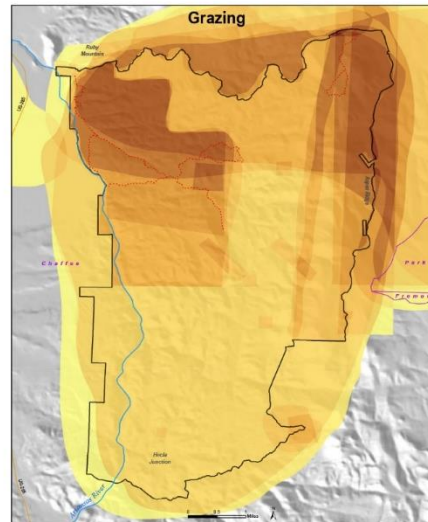
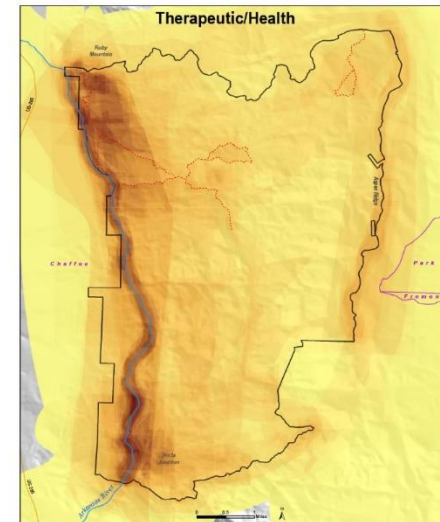
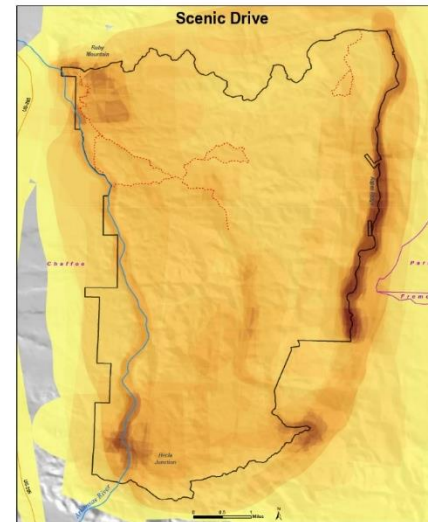
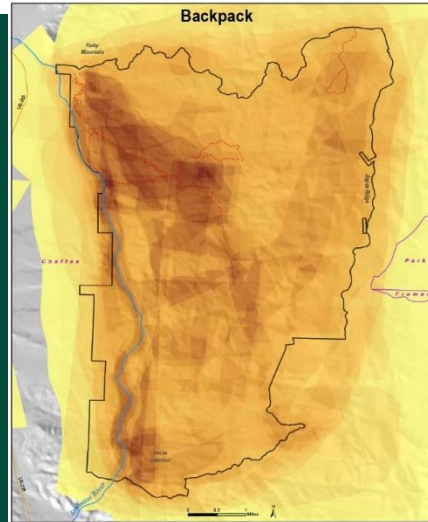


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Types of Resource Interactions





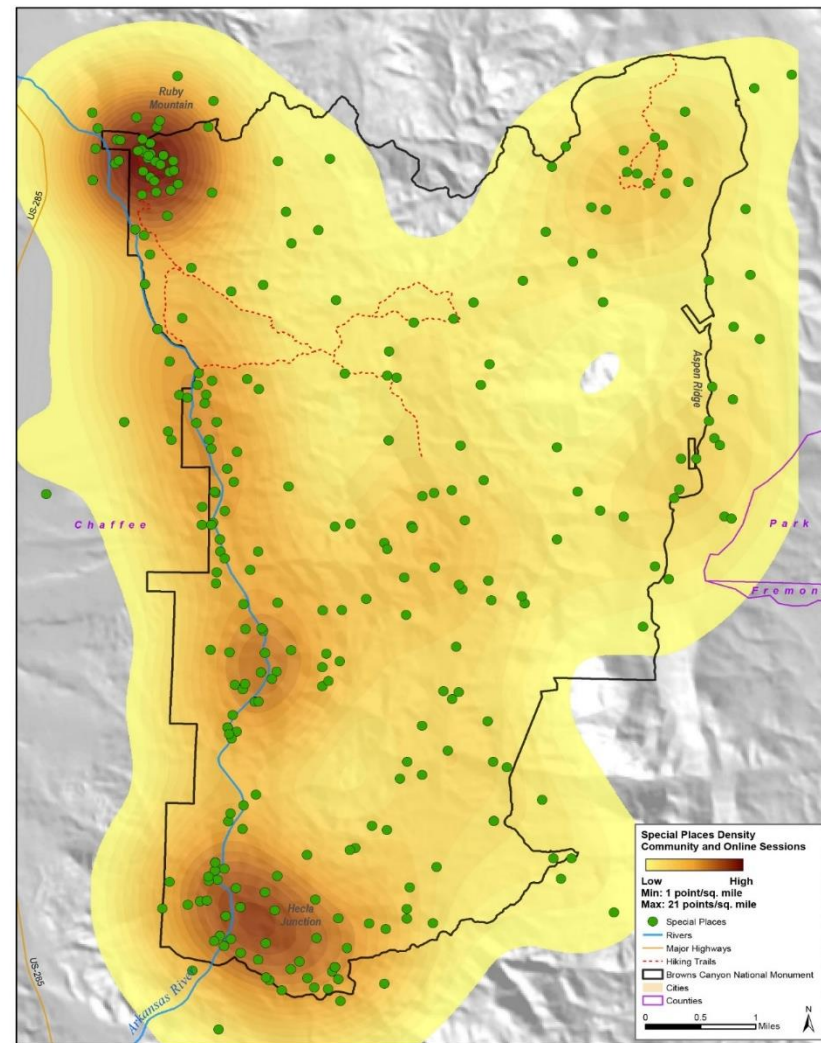
Special Places

Place #1 Name/Location of Special Place: _____

1.1 Meaning: Why is it significant to you? What does this place mean to you?

1.2 Landscape Values: What values or benefits to you associate with this place?
Check up to 3 from the list below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Income | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting/Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological/Wildlife/Aquatic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Adventure | <input type="checkbox"/> Solitude/Sounds/Quiet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxation | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual/Religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gathering/Foraging | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness/Wellness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discovery/Learning | <input type="checkbox"/> Symbolic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenery/Views | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Beauty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |





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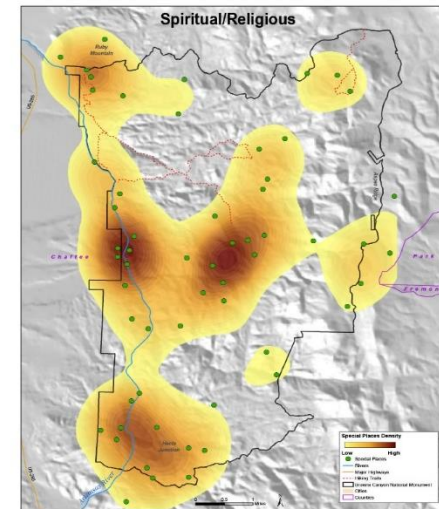
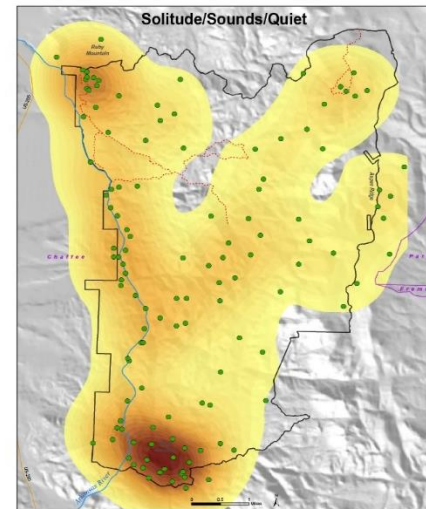
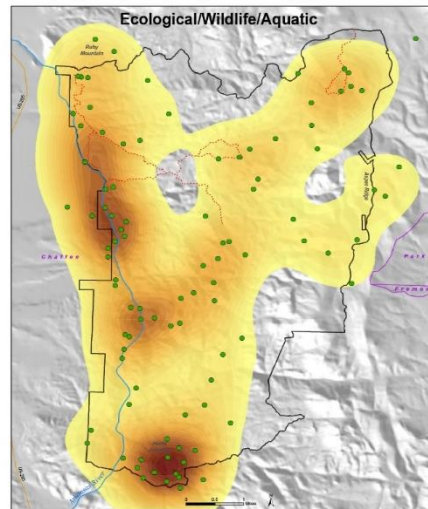
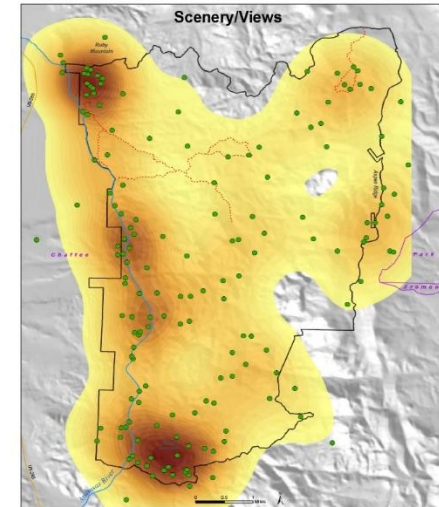
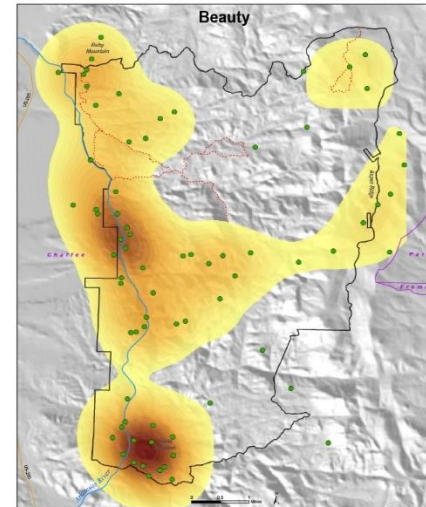
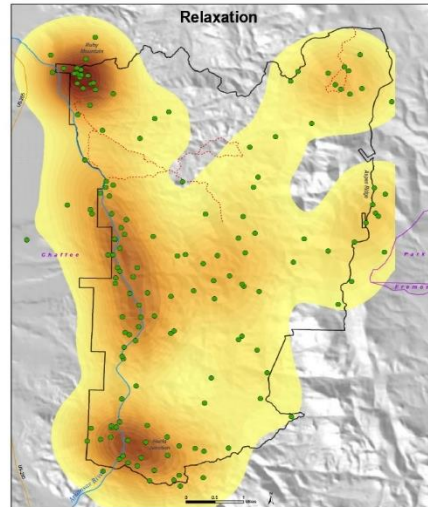


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Landscape Values





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Provide Comment

1) Use paper sheet and
leave with us today



Comments on Social Landscape Assessment

Did the findings and maps confirm your ideas about the Browns Canyon area? If so, how? _____

Did you see or hear anything that surprised you? _____

Did you see anything crucial missing? _____

Any other input or reflections on the report? _____

USFS Salida Ranger District

c/o Joe Vieira, BLM

5575 Cleora Road, Salida CO 81201

E-mail: blm_co_browns-canyon@blm.gov

Website: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/browns-canyon>



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- 2) MAIL paper sheet to address provided

Mailing
Address



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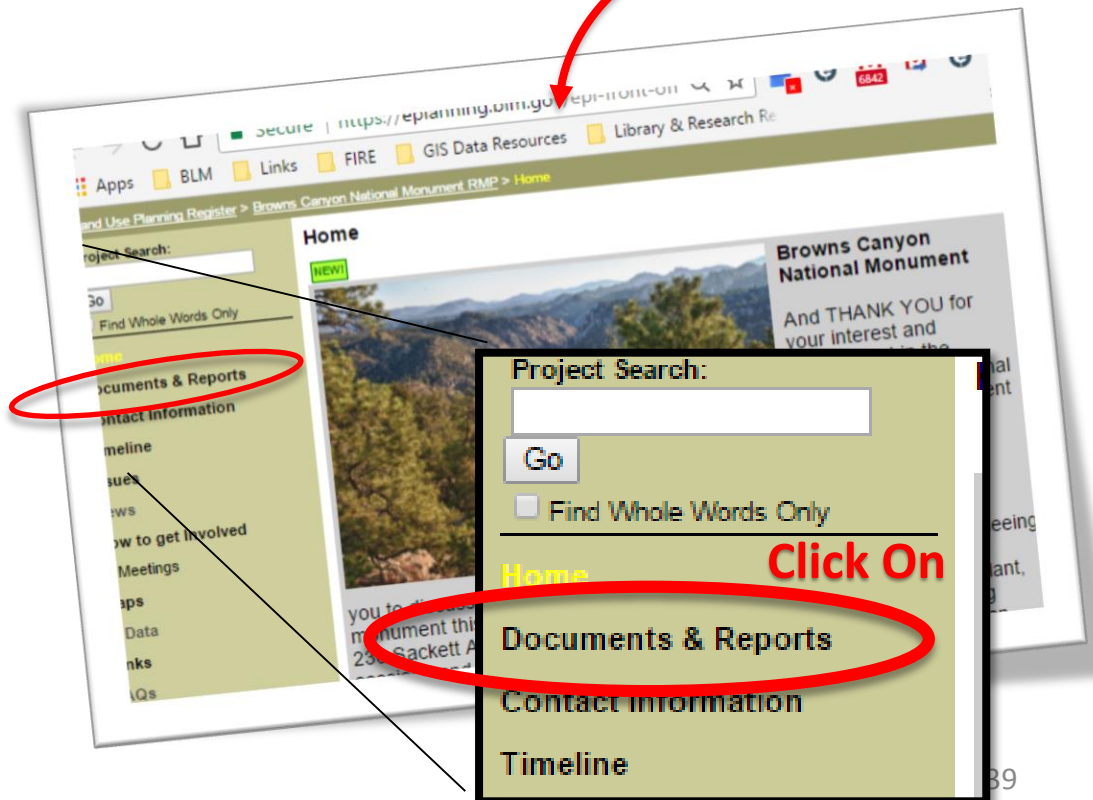
National Conservation Lands > Colorado

Provide Com

- 1) Use paper sheet and leave with us today
- 2) MAIL paper sheet to address provided
- 3) Online at the BLM ePlanning website

www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/browns-canyon

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Click On

Documents & Reports

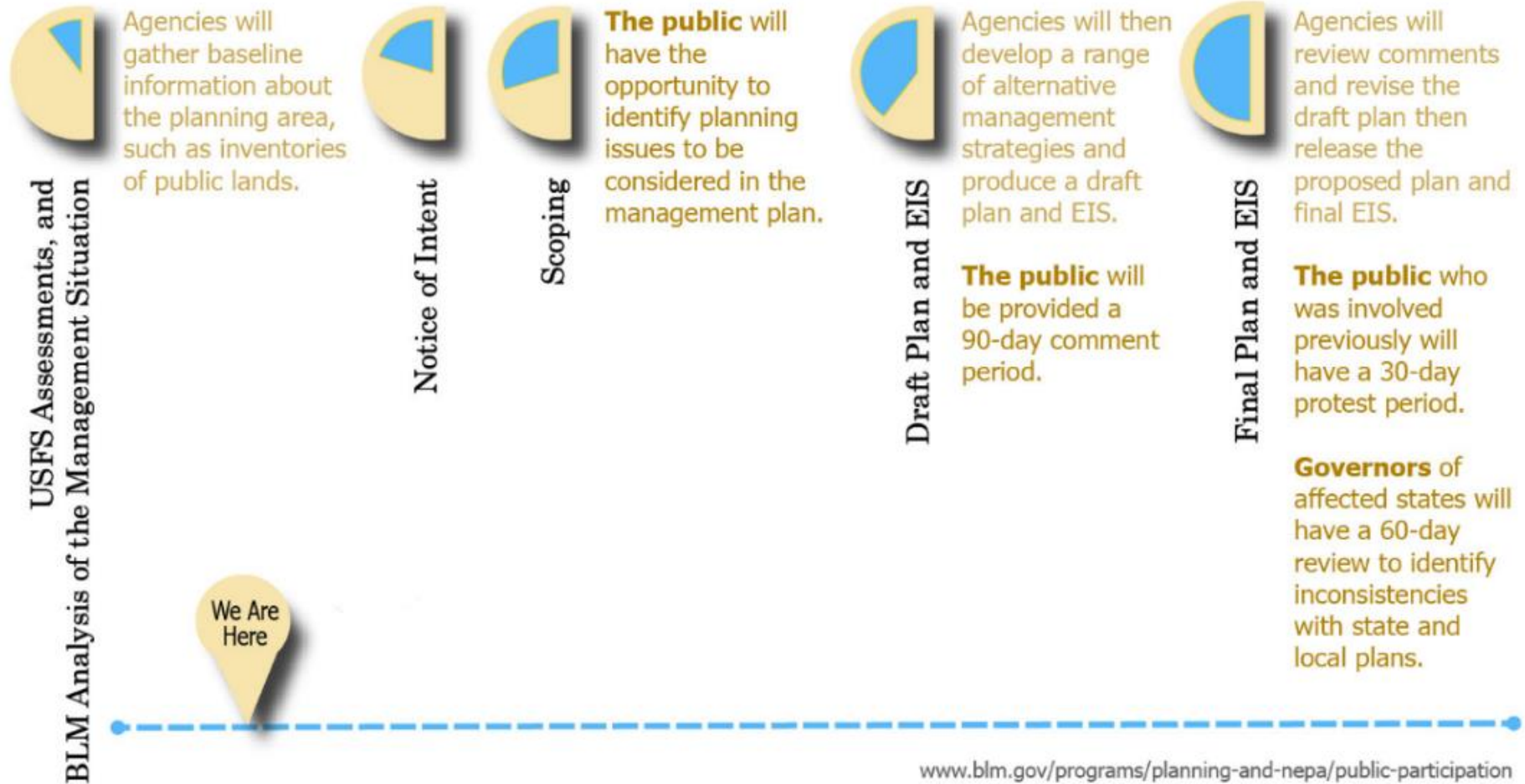
Contact Information

Timeline



Planning Stages

And Public Involvement





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Thank you
for your time & interest in
YOUR Public Lands!

How to stay informed

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Website: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/browns-canyon>

--> Go to the **EPLANNING** under **QUICK LINKS**